United Nations E/2015/15/Add.2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
11 June 2015

Original: English

2015 session
21 July 2014-22 July 2015
Agenda item 15
Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains information on resolutions and decisions adopted at the seventy-first session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 25 to 29 May 2015, and the special session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, held in Amman on 8 and 9 June 2015. The full texts of all the resolutions are available from the website of the regional commissions (www.regionalcommissions.org/our-work/regional-commissions-sessions-resolutions-and-decisions).

15-09582 (E) 240615

Please recycle

Contents

		Page
I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council	3
	A. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	3
	B. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	21
II.	Matters brought to the attention of the Council	21
	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	21

I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

A. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1. At its seventy-first session, held in Bangkok from 25 to 29 May 2015, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) adopted resolutions 71/1 and 71/11, on the basis of which the following draft resolutions are submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council.

Draft resolution I[1]
Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-first session of resolution 71/1,

Endorses the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda, as set out in the above-mentioned resolution and its annexes.

2. Resolution 71/1 reads as follows:

Resolution 71/1
Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 69/1 of 1 May 2013, in which it decided to conduct, at its seventy-first session, a review of the progress in implementation of the present resolution; and 70/11 of 8 August 2014 on implementing the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[2] in particular paragraph 100 in which the Conference participants emphasized that regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations regional commissions and their subregional offices, had a significant role to play in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions,

Acknowledging recent international meetings and conferences that featured issues related to sustainable development and the role of regional organizations, and noting with appreciation the successful holding and

[1] An oral statement of the programme budget implications will be presented by the Secretariat in conjunction with the present resolution.

[2] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

outcome of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, and adoption of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway[3] in September 2014 by the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia,

Bearing in mind the continuing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda taking place at the General Assembly, and recognizing the relevant meetings and conferences, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, to be held in New York from 26 June to 8 July 2015, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015, and the United Nations Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, to be held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015 as a high-level plenary meeting at the seventieth session of the General Assembly,

Noting the Commission's unique role as the most representative body in Asia and the Pacific and its comprehensive mandate as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations development system in the region,

Recognizing the need for the Commission to adapt and respond to the evolving development challenges and opportunities within the Asia-Pacific region, and to be fit for purpose and in line with the evolving post-2015 development agenda,

Emphasizing, to that end, the importance of strengthening cooperation and coordination, and the need to create synergies within the United Nations development system at the global, regional and country levels in the Asia-Pacific region through enhanced collaboration between the secretariat and the funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations development system, as well as the need to build new partnerships within that system in line with General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Underlining that the effectiveness and efficiency of its conference structure benefit from engagement and communication between member States and the secretariat, as well as with major groups and other stakeholders, in accordance with its rules and procedures,

Commending the Executive Secretary on the initiatives taken to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the conference structure and to facilitate an effective process of consultation among members and associate members on a comprehensive and thorough review of the conference structure of the Commission,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of resolution 69/1,[4,5]

[3] General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

[4] E/ESCAP/71/33.

[5] E/ESCAP/71/40.

1. *Decides* to revise its conference structure, with immediate effect, in the following manner:

(a) Establish a committee on energy as a part of its subsidiary structure, meeting biennially;

(b) Reconstitute the Committee on Information and Communications Technology as the committee on information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation, meeting biennially;

(c) Reconstitute the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development as the committee on macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development, meeting biennially;

2. *Also decides* that, as a result of the reforms enumerated in the paragraph above, beginning in 2016, committee on information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation; Committee on Transport; Committee on Social Development; Committee on Statistics; and Committee on Environment and Development shall meet in the even years, and committee on macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development; Committee on Trade and Investment; Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction and committee on energy shall meet in the odd years;

3. *Reaffirms* that the conference structure of the Commission shall conform to the pattern outlined in the annexes to this resolution;

4. *Requests* the Governing Council of each regional institution, at its next session, to consider the statute of the said regional institution to incorporate the following changes and to submit the revised statutes for the endorsement of the Commission at its seventy-second session:

(a) Abolish the technical committees of the regional institutions that have them;

(b) Ensure that the members of the Governing Councils are represented by the relevant line ministries;

(c) Consider that the regional institutions will be primarily funded by extrabudgetary resources;

(d) Ensure that regional institutions develop their capacities to assist member States in an efficient and effective manner;

(e) Encourage all members and associate members of ESCAP to make the necessary regular annual contributions, on a voluntary basis, which is essential to the operation of the regional institutions;

5. *Decides* to review the continued substantive relevance and financial viability of each regional institution every five years, with the start and timing of such reviews linked to the year of their establishment;

6. *Calls upon* all development partners, in particular the relevant organizations of the United Nations development system, to support the Commission in promoting sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region through all appropriate mechanisms, including active participation in Commission sessions and enhanced cooperation on projects and policies;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to undertake systematic monitoring and evaluation of the conference structure and its link to the programme priorities of the Commission;

8. *Decides* to conduct a review of the reforms initiated through this resolution at its seventy-third session and requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report, which will serve as a basis for that review, on the implementation of these reforms and include recommendations on further adjustments to the conference structure, if necessary.

Annex I

Conference structure of the Commission

I. The Commission

1. The Commission shall meet annually under an overarching theme selected by member States, with each session comprising a senior officials segment of three days followed by a ministerial segment of two days, for a total of five working days, to discuss and decide on important issues pertaining to inclusive and sustainable development in the region, decide on the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, review and endorse the proposed strategic framework and programme of work and take any other decisions required in conformity with its terms of reference.

2. The Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries shall be held for a maximum of one day during the senior officials segment, holding a status commensurate with the Committees of the Whole. A one-day preparatory meeting of the Special Body will be held prior to its regular session.

3. The Commission session may include a distinguished person's lecture and high-level representatives of United Nations agencies may be invited to participate in panel discussions held during the session, and corporate leaders and civil society organizations may be invited to participate in the session as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission.

4. The Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, which convenes prior to the Commission session, shall be reconstituted as the Working Group on Draft Resolutions during the senior officials segment and shall have a status commensurate with the Committees of the Whole.

5. The number of simultaneous meetings of the Committees of the Whole, including their commensurate bodies, held during the senior officials segment of the annual session of the Commission shall not exceed two.

6. Draft resolutions shall reflect the substantive deliberations of member States; furthermore, without prejudice to rule 31 of its rules of procedure, members of the Commission intending to submit draft resolutions to the Commission are strongly encouraged to submit them to the Executive Secretary at least one month prior to the commencement of the session of the Commission in order to allow sufficient time for review by members and

associate members of the Commission, and the Commission shall not consider draft resolutions submitted within one week of the first day of the Commission session.

7. The report of the Commission will be composed of the decisions and resolutions of the Commission. The draft record of proceedings of the Commission, prepared by the secretariat, will be circulated among members and associate members for comment within 15 days after the conclusion of the session. Members and associate members will be requested to provide comments within 15 days of receiving the draft record of proceedings. The secretariat's final record of proceedings of the Commission session will be issued within two months of the conclusion of the session, taking into account the relevant comments of members and associate members.

8. The Commission shall serve as the regional platform for integrating the sectoral streams of the Committees, with a view towards promoting sustainable development equitably through all of its three dimensions.

II. Subsidiary structure

9. The subsidiary structure of the Commission shall consist of the following nine committees:

(a) Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development;

(b) Committee on Trade and Investment;

(c) Committee on Transport;

(d) Committee on Environment and Development;

(e) Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation;

(f) Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;

(g) Committee on Social Development;

(h) Committee on Statistics;

(i) Committee on Energy.

10. The nine committees shall each meet biennially for a maximum duration of three days for each session, with joint plenary sessions between multiple committees to discuss cross-cutting issues, when possible and desirable.

11. The Commission may mandate a specific committee or multiple committees to meet in the gap year where a particular topic becomes an urgent issue for the region.

12. Within their respective areas of purview, the committees shall:

(a) Review and analyse regional trends;

(b) Identify, in consultation with member States, their priorities and emerging issues, and consult on regional approaches, taking into consideration subregional aspects;

(c) Promote regional dialogue, including subregional synergies, and an exchange of experiences on policies and programmes;

(d) Consider common regional positions as inputs to global processes and promote regional follow-up to their outcomes;

(e) Propose issues for consideration by the Commission as the basis for possible resolutions;

(f) Monitor the implementation of Commission resolutions;

(g) Promote a collaborative approach to addressing the development challenges of the region, where appropriate, between Governments and civil society, the private sector, as well as the United Nations and other international organizations at the regional and subregional levels.

13. Further, within their respective areas of purview, the committees shall provide the secretariat, including its regional institutions, with guidance in reviewing the proposed strategic framework and programme of work.

14. The following areas shall be mainstreamed into the work of all committees:

(a) Implementation and monitoring the achievement of the relevant internationally agreed development goals;

(b) Poverty reduction and balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development;

(c) Gender equality;

(d) The priority needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

15. Representatives of civil society and the private sector may, upon consultation with member States, be invited to join the Committee sessions as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission.

16. The specific issues to be addressed by each of the nine committees in carrying out the above functions are listed in annex II to the present resolution.

III. Ad hoc ministerial conferences and other intergovernmental meetings

17. Subject to the approval of the Commission, ad hoc ministerial conferences and other intergovernmental meetings may be organized on specific and cross-sectoral issues.

18. No more than six such ministerial conferences or other intergovernmental meetings may be held during a calendar year, and the total number of days shall not exceed twenty.

19. In those years when a ministerial conference or intergovernmental meeting is held covering issues normally discussed in a committee, the corresponding committee need not be convened.

IV. Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

20. The functions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall be in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex III to the present resolution.

21. The Advisory Committee may, if necessary, establish its own working groups on consideration of specific issues.

22. The Advisory Committee shall meet with sufficient frequency both in formal and informal meetings on topical subjects, especially prior to the Commission session. The number of formal meetings of the Advisory Committee per calendar year shall not be less than six or more than twelve. Any additional meetings, formal or informal, will be held in consultation with the Advisory Committee and the Executive Secretary, and may not require documentation by the secretariat, unless otherwise requested by the Advisory Committee.

23. Should the need arise to seek the views of United Nations entities or other intergovernmental organizations on subjects of interest to the Advisory Committee, members of the Advisory Committee can, if consensus has been reached, request the secretariat to invite representatives of particular United Nations entities or other intergovernmental organizations to attend a subsequent session of the Advisory Committee.

24. The Advisory Committee shall periodically review the work of subregional offices and regional institutions, and actively follow up and report on the implementation of resolutions by member States. The secretariat shall facilitate the reporting on resolutions by preparing the requisite guidelines and templates.

V. Regional institutions under the auspices of the Commission

25. The following institutions under the auspices of the Commission shall continue to function as prescribed in their respective statutes and terms of reference:

(a) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;

(b) Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture;

(c) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;

(e) Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development.

26. The Commission may constitute additional regional institutions that support the achievement of its strategic and programmatic objectives.

VI. General provisions

A. Rules of procedure

27. Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, the rules of procedure of the Commission, including those pertaining to the decision-making process, shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the committees.

B. Informal session

28. An informal session among the heads of delegations during the ministerial segment of each Commission session may be organized but shall not be institutionalized. The agenda for the informal session shall be decided by consensus and the annotated agenda shall reach members at least thirty days before the opening of the session to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the session. Simultaneous interpretation shall be provided.

Annex II
Issues to be addressed by committees subsidiary to the Commission

The issues listed below are the primary issues to be addressed by each committee. The Commission may adjust the list of issues for any committee at any time, as appropriate; the committees shall likewise retain the flexibility to address new or emerging issues brought to their attention by the secretariat, upon consultation with member States.

1. Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development:

(a) Experiences and practices in formulating and implementing macroeconomic policies to reduce poverty and inequalities, as well as to achieve sustainable and inclusive development;

(b) Regional economic development policies and options;

(c) Financing for development, including enhancing domestic fiscal resources; increasing social impact investment by the private sector; and accessing regional financing vehicles, arrangements and funds;

(d) Experiences and practices in developing regulations and institutions to deepen and strengthen the region's capital markets;

(e) Review of pro-poor economic growth policies, particularly in countries with special needs; and

(f) Policy options and programmes for reducing rural poverty, including those with a gender dimension, through the development of sustainable agriculture.

2. Committee on Trade and Investment:

(a) Regional cooperative mechanisms and agreements in trade and investment, including the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement;

(b) Policy options on trade, investment, and small- and medium-sized enterprise development; and

(c) Policy options and frameworks on trade facilitation.

3. Committee on Transport:

(a) Transport policy options and programmes, including the evolving post-2015 development agenda, and regional agreements and mandates;

(b) The Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and other initiatives, including inter-island shipping and maritime transport promoted by the Commission for planning and financing integrated intermodal transport and logistics systems;

(c) Measures to improve road safety and the efficiency of transport operations and logistics;

(d) Support for the accession and implementation of international transport agreements;

(e) Harmonization of transport standards and documents;

(f) Applications of new transport technologies, including intelligent transport systems;

(g) Private sector participation for financing and maintaining infrastructure, including through public-private partnerships.

4. Committee on Environment and Development:

(a) Policies and strategies for enhancing environmental sustainability of economic and social development, including climate change mitigation and adaptation;

(b) Policies and strategies for sustainable management of natural resources including water; and

(c) Policies and strategies for promoting inclusive and sustainable urban development.

5. Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation:

(a) Integration of information and communications technology-related issues in development policies, plans and programmes;

(b) Transfer and application of information and communications technology at the regional and subregional levels;

(c) Information and communications technology, including space applications, for disaster risk reduction;

(d) Development of human and institutional capacity in the use of information and communications technology and in the use of science and technology for innovation;

(e) Policy options and strategies for enhancing cooperation on the generation of and access to science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, including regional mechanisms for technology transfer;

(f) Mainstreaming of science, technology and innovation issues in development policies, strategies and plans.

6. Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction:

(a) Policy options and strategies on multi-hazard disaster risk reduction and mitigation;

(b) Regional cooperation mechanisms for disaster risk management, including space and other technical support systems; and

(c) Multi-hazard assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks.

7. Committee on Social Development:

(a) Review the regional implementation of the internationally agreed goals and commitments on social development;

(b) Assess population and development trends, including international migration and its impact on development;

(c) Address issues of inequality and promote the social inclusion of youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and other vulnerable social groups;

(d) Promote gender equality and women's empowerment; and

(e) Strengthen social protection and health systems.

8. Committee on Statistics:

(a) Ensure that by 2020 all countries in the region have the capability to provide a basic range of population, economic, social and environmental statistics;

(b) Create a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices through stronger collaboration.

9. Committee on Energy:

(a) Assist in the development of strategies towards attaining internationally agreed development goals concerning energy;

(b) Promote policy dialogues and networking among member States to develop a regional cooperation framework to enhance energy security, with a view towards promoting greater use of sustainable energy resources, including universal access to energy services, improving energy efficiency and scaling up the use of renewable energy, particularly through data and policy analysis, information exchanges and best practices;

(c) Identify policy options to strengthen intergovernmental frameworks to promote regional energy connectivity in order to develop a supportive mechanism for regional economic cooperation and integration;

(d) Support the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum and other regional agreements and mandates including the evolving post-2015 development agenda, promoted by the Commission for regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy;

(e) Identify policy options, strategies, policy dialogues and knowledge platforms to promote access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern

energy for all including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies; and

(f) Identify policies and strategies to promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies.

Annex III

Terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall have the following functions:

(a) To strengthen close cooperation and consultation between the member States and the secretariat, including by providing advice and guidance to be taken into account by the Executive Secretary while undertaking the respective activities;

(b) To serve as a deliberative forum for substantive exchange of views and provide guidance on the formulation of the agenda of the Commission and in connection with economic and social developments that have an impact on the Asia-Pacific region;

(c) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the strategic framework, programme of work and theme topics for sessions of the Commission consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission;

(d) To receive, on a regular basis, information on the administrative and financial functioning of the Commission;

(e) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Commission's programme of work and resource allocation;

(f) To review the draft calendar of meetings prior to its submission to the Commission at its annual session;

(g) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for sessions of the Commission and committees subsidiary to the Commission, consistent with the need to ensure a results-oriented and focused agenda that is aligned with the developmental priorities of member States, as defined by them, as well as chapter II of its rules of procedure;

(h) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary on the identification of emerging economic and social issues and other relevant issues for incorporation into the provisional agendas and on the formulation of the annotated provisional agendas for Commission sessions;

(i) To be informed of collaboration and related arrangements between the secretariat and other international and regional organizations, in particular on long-term cooperation programmes and joint initiatives, including those to be proposed by the Executive Secretary and conducted under the aegis of the Regional Coordination Mechanism;

(j) To carry out any other tasks entrusted to it by the Commission.

Draft resolution II[6]
Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-first session of resolution 71/11,

Endorses the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the developme.[7] of disaster information management as set out in the above-mentioned resolution and its annex.

3. Resolution 71/11 reads as follows:

Resolution 71/11
Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 67/4 of 25 May 2011 and its decision therein to initiate the process for the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management (hereinafter, the "centre") in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and in which it invited all members and associate members to participate actively in the process of developing the programmes of the centre and to support the centre's activities and requested the Executive Secretary to support the process for the establishment of the centre and to include in the secretariat's evaluation plan an evaluation of the activities, the need for, and benefit of, establishing the centre as a subsidiary body of the Commission, for the development of disaster information management,

Recalling also its resolutions 69/12 of 1 May 2013 on enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific; 70/2 of 23 May 2014 on disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific; and 70/13 of 8 August 2014 on regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific,

Remembering the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[7] in particular the outcomes related to disaster risk reduction and the role of the regional commissions in supporting member States and the development agenda,

Reaffirming the Yogyakarta Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific 2012 adopted at the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from 22 to 25 October 2012, which called on disaster risk reduction stakeholders, among other things, to enhance and support regional cooperation mechanisms and centres on disaster information management,

[6] An oral statement of programme budget implications will be presented by the Secretariat in conjunction with the present resolution.

[7] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Reiterating the importance of the Sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Bangkok from 23 to 26 June 2014, and reaffirming the Bangkok Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific 2014, which called on Governments and other stakeholders, including the United Nations system, to support the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, in particular the Asia-Pacific regional post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction implementation plan and the priority actions stated in the Bangkok Declaration,

Bearing in mind the outcome document of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, and adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, in particular its seventh global target, which states "substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030",

Recognizing the important contribution of disaster information management in disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters, as well as to inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,

Emphasizing the significance of giving disaster risk reduction due consideration in the post-2015 development agenda, expected to be adopted at the United Nations Summit in September 2015,

Recognizing the demand for disaster information services in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the request for promotion of regional cooperation mechanisms and knowledge-sharing arrangements to improve different aspects of disaster risk management, such as multi-hazard assessment, disaster preparedness, and early warnings and responses to disasters,

Recognizing also the importance of institutional and technical capacity development in disaster information management in the countries and organizations of the region and in achieving the objectives and expected results of disaster risk reduction and management more effectively,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its generous offer to host the centre and to bear its institutional, programmatic and operational costs for five years, up to 50 million United States dollars,

Recognizing that the main objective of the centre would be to reduce the risks, losses and damages resulting from natural hazards by developing the capacities and capabilities of the countries and organizations of the region and strengthening regional cooperation on information sharing and management of disaster risk reduction, and that the centre would commence its functions and programmes with a focus on the more vulnerable subregions of Asia and the Pacific,

Taking note of the report[8] on the evaluation pursuant to resolution 67/4 on the establishment of the centre and the evaluation[9] undertaken by an independent evaluation team, which concluded that there was a need to

[8] See E/ESCAP/71/34.

[9] See E/ESCAP/71/INF/6.

establish a regional centre to support vulnerable member States in bridging their disaster information management gaps and which recognized the significant steps made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in laying the foundations for the centre's operations,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations contained in the above-mentioned evaluation;

2. *Decides* to establish the centre as a regional institution of the Commission, which will contribute to the ESCAP programme of work in the area of information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction, while being funded through voluntary contributions from the host Government, including up to a limit of 50 million United States dollars during its first five years of operations;

3. *Adopts* the statute of the centre, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, as the basis for its operations;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations and other international organizations and agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations in the relevant fields, to provide support to the centre and cooperate in achieving its objectives and the implementation of its work programme;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To take all the necessary measures to ensure that the centre is established promptly, including the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations;

(b) To report on the progress made in implementation of this resolution to the seventy-second session of the Commission;

6. *Decides* to assess the performance of the centre, on the basis of the findings of an independent, comprehensive review at its seventy-sixth session, and to determine continuation of operations of the centre as a regional institution of the Commission thereafter.

Annex

Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management

Establishment

1. The Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (hereinafter referred to as "the Centre"), established in XXX, and accorded the legal status of a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") pursuant to Commission resolutions XXX, shall continue in existence under the same title and under the terms of the present statute.

2. Participation in capacity development activities of the Centre is open to all members and associate members of the Commission.

3. The Centre has the status of a subsidiary body of the Commission.

Objectives

4. To reduce human losses and material damages and the negative impact of natural hazards through enhancement of disaster information management in the Asian and Pacific region.

5. To strengthen the capabilities and capacities of countries and regional organizations in the fields of disaster information management and disaster risk reduction and implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the evolving post-2015 development agenda.

6. To contribute to the enhancement of regional cooperation and coordination among countries and organizations in the region in the field of disaster information management aiming at socioeconomic development of nations and achieving internationally agreed development goals, particularly those related to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the evolving post-2015 development agenda.

Functions

7. To provide disaster information management services to member States and national and regional institutions in the fields of disaster prevention and risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery with a focus on disaster monitoring and early warning.

8. To provide technical and advisory support and services on disaster information policies, strategies and systems to member States and organizations in the region.

9. To facilitate access to regional and global disaster information and data sources through the creation of appropriate standards, frameworks and mechanisms and development of regional programmes, such as the establishment of a regional disaster database.

10. To develop the capacities of developing countries and regional organizations to transform the regional and global disaster data and information to applicable outcomes and products at the national and local levels by strengthening and mobilizing the required resources and benefiting from all available possibilities and initiatives, such as public-private partnerships.

11. To create and promote complementary cooperation among subregional disaster management centres and mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific region to exchange disaster data, information and knowledge by filling the existing gaps and by creating appropriate regional cooperation frameworks and protocols, such as the establishment of a regional disaster information management network with a focus on multi-hazard disaster monitoring and early warning.

12. To develop disaster information management tools and mechanisms, such as publications and virtual networks.

13. To act as a regional platform for disaster information for exchange of expertise, experiences and knowledge and to provide technical services and support to member States and disaster management institutions in the various fields of disaster management and risk reduction by benefiting from other

available programmes and initiatives, such as North-South and South-South cooperation, and other regional organizations and Commission institutions.

14. To facilitate or conduct surveys and research and to provide specialized training services on new tools, techniques and standards to improve disaster information management and to fill the existing gaps in disaster information supply chains at the national and regional levels.

15. To facilitate or conduct specialized surveys on the assessment of needs and capacities, challenges and opportunities in the area of disaster information management to support disaster management policymakers and managers at the national and regional levels when and where required.

16. To facilitate or conduct specialized studies and provide scientific and applied services in the development of disaster risk reduction measures and programmes and implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the evolving post-2015 development agenda.

Products and services

17. Capacity development in disaster information management: training and technical support.

18. Information support and analytical works on hazard, vulnerability, exposure and risk assessment at the regional/subregional levels.

19. Communications and publications:

- Development of and support to regional and subregional disaster information networks
- Supporting local and national capacity development initiatives and programmes in disaster information management
- Providing information services for disaster risk management priorities

Scope

20. The Centre is to commence its activities with a focus on the more vulnerable subregions of Asia and the Pacific, including South-East Asia, South and South-West Asia as well as North and Central Asia, in the first phase of its operations due to the priority of these subregions in disaster risk reduction and management cooperation, and may eventually cover all the Asian and Pacific region.

21. The Centre is to apply a multi-hazard approach in its planning and activities with a focus on earthquake, tsunamis, floods, cyclones/typhoons and drought as the main hazards of the region.

22. The Centre is to include all phases and sectors of disaster management and risk reduction before, during and after the occurrence of disasters.

23. The focus of the programmes and activities of the proposed Centre is:

(a) To provide capacity development in the area of disaster information management;

(b) To provide technical assistance and supplementary information services during major disasters that require regional and international assistance through promotion of complementary cooperation with other relevant organizations and institutions.

Status and organization

24. The Centre shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"), a Director and staff. The Commission shall keep separate accounts for the Centre.

25. The Centre is located in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran.

26. The activities of the Centre shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. The Centre shall be subject to the financial and staff regulations and rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

27. The Centre shall have a Governing Council consisting of a representative designated by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of the Commission. The members and associate members to be elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years, but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary of the Commission or his/her representative shall attend meetings of the Council.

28. The Director of the Centre shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

29. Representatives of: (a) States that are not members of the Council; (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies; and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

30. The Council shall meet at least once a year and shall adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of the Commission, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene special sessions at the request of a majority of the Council members.

31. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

32. The nine representatives constituting the Council, under paragraph 27 of the present statute, shall have one vote each. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, when this is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

33. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, who shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

34. The Council shall review the administrative and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of the Commission shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

35. The Council shall review and endorse annual and long-term workplans consistent with the programme of work.

Director and staff

36. The Centre shall have a Director and staff, who shall be Commission staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Council shall be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post. All appointments shall be for a fixed duration and shall be limited to service with the Centre.

37. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of the Commission for the administration of the Centre, the preparation of annual and long-term workplans and the implementation of the programme of work.

Resources of the Centre

38. All members and associate members of the Commission should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund for the Centre, in which these contributions shall be deposited and utilized solely for the activities of the Centre, subject to paragraph 40 of the present statute.

39. United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other entities should also be encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Centre.

40. The financial resources of the Centre shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

41. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by means of a resolution of the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present statute

42. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 30 of this statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

43. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

B. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

4. At its special session, held in Amman on 8 June 2015, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia adopted resolution 322 (S-V), on the basis of which the following draft resolution is presented for action by the Economic and Social Council.

Draft resolution
Admission of Mauritania as a member of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption of resolution 322 (S-V) by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at its special session, held in Amman on 8 June 2015,

Approves the admission of Mauritania as a member of the Commission.

5. Resolution 322 (S-V) reads as follows:

Resolution 322 (S-V)
Admission of Mauritania as a member of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to the letter addressed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mauritania to the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on 30 April 2015, in which it expressed the interest of Mauritania in becoming a member of the Commission,

Recalling the accession of the Sudan to the Commission in 2008 as per Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/8 of 22 July 2008, and the accession of Libya, Morocco and Tunisia to the Commission in 2012 as per Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/1 of 10 July 2012,

Recalling also its resolution 302 (XXVII) of 10 May 2012, which invites all Arab countries to become members of the Commission,

1. *Welcomes* the request of Mauritania to become a member of the Commission;

2. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council approve the admission of Mauritania as a member of the Commission;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution.

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

6. At its seventy-first session, held in Bangkok from 25 to 29 May 2015, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted a number of

resolutions, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council. The full texts of all the resolutions are available from the website of the regional commissions (www.regionalcommissions.org/our-work/regional-commissions-sessions-resolutions-and-decisions).

Resolution 71/2
Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in Asia and the Pacific

7. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, requested the Executive Secretary (a) to transmit the Siem Reap Angkor Outcome Document as the input to the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, to be held in Antalya, Turkey, in June 2016; (b) to prepare and publish the *Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report* on an annual basis as one of the secretariat's publications and report the main findings and key messages of that report to the annual sessions of the Commission; (c) to continue to assist Asia-Pacific least developed countries, in cooperation with other international entities and taking into account their respective mandates, in building their capacity to undertake appropriate policy responses to accelerate their structural transformation and to achieve other internationally agreed development goals, including the post-2015 development agenda, which is expected to be adopted at the United Nations Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda in September 2015; and (d) to submit to the Commission at its seventy-second session a report on the progress achieved in implementing the resolution.

Resolution 71/3
Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024

8. The Commission welcomed the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 and encouraged the Asian landlocked and transit developing countries, regional and subregional organizations and all other stakeholders to implement at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the actions that had been agreed upon in the Programme of Action.

9. The Commission invited those landlocked developing countries that had not yet done so to accede to or to ratify, at their earliest convenience, the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, invited the secretariat, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, member States, including development partners, and relevant international and regional organizations to support the Think Tank so that it could undertake its role, called upon member States to mainstream the Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies and invited the relevant organizations and bodies, including the World Bank, the World Trade Organization and regional development banks, including the Asian Development Bank, to integrate the Programme of Action into their programmes of work.

10. The Commission urged the development partners of the landlocked developing countries to provide targeted technical and financial support and to increase their

investment in infrastructure development and maintenance, as appropriate, and invited the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence and in line with the national priorities of the landlocked developing countries.

11. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary (a) to mainstream the Programme of Action into the programme of work of the Commission and submit annual analytical reports on its implementation; (b) to provide all possible assistance to the Asia-Pacific landlocked developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action; (c) to carry out relevant activities to ensure the effective realization of the road map of the secretariat for implementing the Programme of Action; and (d) to report to the Commission at its seventy-second session on progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

Resolution 71/4
Implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway

12. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Government and the people of Samoa for hosting the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, and for providing all the necessary support, and encouraged all members and associate members of the Commission to support, both actively and effectively, the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, particularly by strengthening the means by which it would be done, including through partnerships, financing, trade, technology, capacity-building and institutional support.

13. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies as well as regional, subregional and non-governmental organizations (a) to assist Pacific island members and associate members, upon request, to enhance national capacities and institutions; (b) to enhance the Pacific voice and representation in regional and global processes; and (c) to ensure the realization of a transformational strategy for the sustainable development of small island developing States by strengthening the role of the Commission in monitoring the follow-up to the Samoa Pathway and the evolving post-2015 development agenda.

14. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to continue to enhance the voice and participation of small island developing States in the decision-making and norm-setting processes of the Commission, including through the conference structure, and further requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on progress in the implementation of the resolution.

Resolution 71/5
Implementing the outcome of the Asia-Pacific High-level consultation on Financing for Development

15. The Commission encouraged countries in Asia and the Pacific to actively take part in the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015.

16. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary (a) to transmit, as the region's input, the Chair's summary of the Asia-Pacific High-level Consultation on Financing for Development to the organizers of the third International Conference

on Financing for Development; (b) to continue to mainstream financing for development into its programme of work, as appropriate and in accordance with its mandate; (c) to provide all possible assistance to the member States in implementing the recommendations contained in the Chair's summary of the High-level Consultation; and (d) to report to the Commission at its seventy-second session on the progress made in implementing the resolution.

Resolution 71/6
Maritime transport connectivity for sustainable development

17. The Commission urged countries in the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen cooperation on maritime transport connectivity in order to facilitate the achievement of sustainable development and encouraged countries in the region to make further efforts in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in order to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources and marine ecosystems, and to underline the importance of regional and global efforts and cooperation to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

18. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary (a) to include maritime connectivity in the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 and its Regional Action Programme (2017-2021), as appropriate, to be presented to the Ministerial Conference on Transport at its third session in 2016; (b) to further strengthen ways of cooperation to enhance capacities at the national and regional levels in building intermodal transport for the Asia-Pacific region, in particular maritime transport; (c) to collaborate with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, regional and subregional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to make the necessary efforts in maritime cooperation to achieve sustainable development; and (d) to report to the Commission at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the resolution.

Resolution 71/7
Adoption of the Regional Cooperation Framework for the Facilitation of International Railway Transport

19. The Commission adopted the Regional Cooperation Framework for the Facilitation of International Railway Transport and requested the Executive Secretary (a) to accord priority to the implementation of the Regional Cooperation Framework by assisting members and associate members in their efforts to realize the vision of a sustainable integrated intermodal transport and logistics system; (b) to ensure effective coordination with other United Nations and multilateral agencies, as well as with subregional organizations, in the implementation of the Regional Cooperation Framework; (c) to ensure the secretariat's cooperation with the relevant regional initiatives aimed at developing transport connectivity, inter alia, the Joint Project on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages, the Belt and Road Initiative and the Partnership for Quality Infrastructure, as well as other regional corridors; (d) to facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices on the facilitation of international railway transport; (e) to urge member States that had not already done so to become parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network; and (f) to collaborate with international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors and private sector investors and international organizations to mobilize financial and technical support for the wider development and facilitation of railway transport along the Trans-Asian Railway Network.

20. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on progress made in implementing the resolution.

Resolution 71/8
Strengthening intraregional and interregional connectivity in Asia and the Pacific

21. The Commission resolved to continue efforts to enhance regional connectivity and strengthen cooperation and coordination in its development strategies and plans in the fields of land, river, sea and air transport, energy and information and communications technology infrastructure, the harmonization of relevant laws, regulations, policies and standards, trade facilitation, financial integration and people-to-people exchanges.

22. The Commission agreed to strengthen its efforts to perform fully its unique role in pooling resources, enhancing policy research, formulating top-level designs and advancing cooperation on the basis of past successful experience and its comparative advantage in advancing work on connectivity.

23. The Commission encouraged members and associate members to implement measures and initiatives with a view to strengthening intraregional and interregional connectivity and endorsed the initiative to develop an integrated intermodal transport and logistics system based on the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and dry port networks.

24. The Commission called upon member States to take appropriate action to accede to, ratify and fully implement the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network and the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports.

25. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary (a) to accord priority to developing comprehensive and seamless connectivity of the region, with a focus on the development of maritime, rail, road, air and intermodal and multimodal transport, and to provide the necessary support for the harmonization of laws, regulations, standards and documents relating to regional connectivity; (b) to enhance efforts to assist members and associate members in fulfilling their need for infrastructure financing with a view to strengthening connectivity; (c) to actively participate in cooperation among members and associate members for the effective implementation of relevant initiatives, including the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Twenty-first Century Maritime Silk Road, the Global Infrastructure Initiative, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Connectivity Blueprint for 2015-2025, and the Master Plan on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Connectivity; (d) to consult with members and associate members as well as other relevant organizations in order to establish an institutional mechanism to support interregional transport connectivity between Asia and Europe; and (e) to build or strengthen partnerships between ESCAP and other relevant regional and subregional institutions and cooperation mechanisms in order to promote interregional and intraregional connectivity.

26. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission on progress in the implementation of the resolution at its seventy-third session.

Resolution 71/9
Strengthening cooperation on sustainable management of water resources in Asia and the Pacific

27. The Commission invited members and associate members, donor countries, multilateral financial institutions, relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and regional organizations to continue their efforts within their respective mandates to support joint projects and programmes on the sustainable management of water resources in Asia and the Pacific.

28. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary (a) to use existing regional platforms for the dissemination of knowledge and the exchange of experiences, including those on the use of new financing mechanisms, and good practices in intergovernmental cooperation on the sustainable management of water resources; (b) to continue consultations with members and associate members, upon their request, on the development and implementation of projects supporting regional cooperation on the sustainable management of transboundary water resources within their respective mandates; and (c) to report back to the Commission at its seventy-third session on progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

Resolution 71/10
Strengthening regional information and communications technology connectivity through the Asia-Pacific information superhighway

29. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology (a) to establish an open-ended working group on the Asia-Pacific information superhighway in order to develop principles and norms, as well as a master plan, covering both the policy and technical aspects of the Asia-Pacific information superhighway; and (b) to consider amending the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network.

30. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary (a) to promote the sharing of experiences, good practices and lessons learned in information and communications technology for disaster risk reduction, management and response, and building e-resilience; (b) to provide the necessary support to facilitate the work of the Open-ended Working Group on the Asia-Pacific information superhighway; (c) to continue the fact-finding initiatives and analysis on the Asia Pacific information superhighway, (d) to continue working on the Asia-Pacific information superhighway in collaboration with international and regional partners; (e) to promote, in collaboration with national, regional and international development partners, civil society and the private sector, the exchange of best practices and experiences and knowledge related to the development of information and communications technology infrastructure; (f) to explore further ways to harness cross-sectoral synergies; and (g) to report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the resolution.

Resolution 71/12
Strengthening regional mechanisms for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Asia and the Pacific

31. The Commission invited members and associate members to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and to address disaster

risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and, as appropriate, to integrate it into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and to consider it within the relevant frameworks.

32. The Commission recognized that North-South cooperation, complemented by South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, plays an important role in addressing disaster risk reduction and building resilience.

33. The Commission invited members and associate members (a) to promote people-centred, multi-hazard and multisectoral policies and practices for disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction; (b) to mainstream and integrate disaster risk reduction within and across all sectors at all levels; (c) to consider contributing financial support to the Commission's Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries; (d) to raise awareness of precautionary measures against tsunamis through the possible establishment of a World Tsunami Day; and (e) to attach priority to promoting information and communications technology and space applications for effective disaster risk management to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Asia and the Pacific.

34. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary (a) to accord priority to the implementation of the Sendai Framework by strengthening the role and capacity of the secretariat in the area of information and communications technology and disaster risk; (b) to coordinate with the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and other relevant United Nations organizations and stakeholders to help member States to monitor and report on progress in their implementation of the Sendai Framework; (c) to establish formal linkages between the Commission's interdisciplinary and intergovernmental platforms and regional platforms on disaster risk reduction; (d) to guide actions at the regional level to strengthen disaster risk modelling, assessment, mapping and monitoring as well as multi-hazard early warning systems for common and transboundary disasters; (e) through the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, (i) to implement a "One United Nations" approach to promoting the coherence of instruments and tools relevant to disaster risk reduction, (ii) to strengthen the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-United Nations Strategic Plan of Cooperation on Disaster Management for the implementation of the Sendai Framework; and (iii) to extend such approaches of cooperation to other subregional organizations; (f) to assist developing countries in Asia and the Pacific to gain from advances in science, technology and innovation; and (g) to work with the Advisory Council of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

35. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on progress in the implementation of the resolution.

Resolution 71/13
Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

36. The Commission endorsed the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, as contained in the annex to the resolution, and decided to hold a high-level intergovernmental conference in

2019 to review the progress made in the further implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and in the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration.

37. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary (a) to strengthen the role of the Commission in supporting members and associate members in implementing the Platform for Action and the Ministerial Declaration; (b) to provide members and associate members, upon request, with capacity-development assistance in support of their efforts to realize their commitments to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment through (i) strengthening institutions; (ii) increasing financing; (iii) enhancing accountability; and (iv) forging stronger partnerships; (c) to promote knowledge-sharing among members and associate members; (d) to continue efforts to ensure the effective mainstreaming of gender into the operations and programme of work of the Commission; (e) to continue to promote greater synergies among United Nations entities in the region through leadership of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism; (f) to conduct, in 2018, a regional review of progress in implementing the Platform for Action and the Ministerial Declaration, in preparation for the above-mentioned high-level intergovernmental conference; and (g) to report to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session on progress in implementing the resolution.

Resolution 71/14
Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade, 2015-2024

38. The Commission endorsed the Ministerial Declaration to "Get every one in the picture" in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, as contained in the annex to the resolution, and declared accordingly the Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade, 2015-2024.

39. The Commission urged member States to make every effort to implement the Ministerial Declaration, following the guidance provided by the goals, targets, key principles and implementation steps contained in the Regional Action Framework, and decided to hold a midterm review of progress in 2020 and a final review of progress in 2025, as timetabled in the Regional Action Framework.

40. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary (a) to accord priority to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and Regional Action Framework; (b) to continue collaborating closely with relevant donors and other development partners to assist country actions by strengthening the technical support available at the national, subregional and regional levels; (c) to actively promote a holistic approach to civil registration and vital statistics, particularly in achieving the post-2015 development agenda; (d) to support the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific in performing its oversight and strategic guidance functions for the Regional Action Framework and custodianship of the Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade; and (e) to report to the Commission on progress in the implementation of the resolution at its seventy-second, seventy-sixth and eighty-first sessions, in accordance with the reviews timetabled in the Regional Action Framework.